THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Assessment of the demand of urea and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is made by the Government of India in consultation with the State for the State. Availability of these fertilizers are ensured at the State level. Partial distribution of urea being controlled under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), its availability is ensured at the State level. DAP is decontrolled fertilizer and its availability depends on market forces of demand and supply and the State has to tie up with different manufacturers for supply to the States.

Ensuring availability of urea and DAP to different districts/areas within the state is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Demand and availability of urea and DAP in Bihar during the last two years was as under:—

(in 000'MT)

Season		Urea	DAP
Kharif, 2002	Demand	650.00	120.00
	Availability	660.22	91.70
Rabi, 2002-03	Demand	700.00	200.00
	Availability	764.68	5.84
Kharif, 2003	Demand	660.00	150.00
	Availability	724.00	13.96
Rabi, 2003-04	Demand	720.00	200.00
	Availability	719.19	60.38

Fertilizer plant in Assam

487. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to set up fertilizer plants in the country particularly in the State of Assam; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per the industrial policy resolution dated 24th July, 1991, no license is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance. However, Public Sector Undertakings/ Cooperative Societies under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers have to obtain approval of the Government before undertaking such capital expenditure beyond their delegated powers.

At present, no proposal for setting up a new fertilizer plant in Assam has been posed to the Government by the PSUs/Cooperative Societies for investment approval. However, Brahmputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) Namrup Revamp Project at Namrup in Assam is currently under implementation, which is likely to be commissioned by March, 2005.

Spurious stocks of food-items

488. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been issuing series of expensive newspaper advertisements on "Consumer Awareness Programmes and Rights of Consumers";

(b) if so, the purpose thereof;

(c) whether Government do not have adequate machinery to inspect and weed out all spurious stocks of food-items;

(d) if so, the role of a watchdog machinery dealing with expired dates and old goods,etc; and

(e) the number of such cases registered during the last three months by Governmental agencies against traders and others for stocking such goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) A multi media Publicity campaign has been launched in consultation with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to generate consumer awareness throughout the country.